



Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item

Agenda Item No. 10

City Manager Approval

To: Mayor and City Council Members

From: Jack Warren, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Bernie Schroeder, Engineering Division Manager
Megan Siren, Recycling Coordinator

Date: August 24, 2009

Subject: Blue Bag Recycling Program – Grand Jury Report

The Issue

Shall the City of Auburn continue the “Blue Bag” recycling program?

Conclusion and Recommendation

City Council, **BY MOTION**, continue the “Blue Bag” recycling program and send a response to the Placer County Grand Jury.

Background

The 2008-2009 Grand Jury report re-investigated the use of blue bags due to the responses received from the cities of Auburn and Lincoln. In August 2008, the City Council voted to continue to offer the blue bag program to the residents of the City of Auburn. The City’s official response to the 2007-08 Grand Jury report is attached.

The Grand Jury report recommends that jurisdictions serviced by the Material Recovery Facility should eliminate the blue bag program. The Grand Jury “...determined the residents’ time, effort and expenses were of marginal value to any of the jurisdictions’ recycling programs while additional costs were incurred in processing intact bags.”

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) is operated by Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA) located between Roseville and Lincoln. WPWMA is a joint powers authority formed in the 1970’s between the Cities of Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln and the County of Placer. The MRF started accepting solid waste in 1995. The MRF receives and sorts through both municipal and commercial solid waste to recycle materials. The MRF uses both mechanical and manual sorting processes and was recently upgraded to expand capacity and additional sorting lines. The MRF currently recycles wood/greenwaste, metals, plastics, glass and paper from municipal and commercial solid waste.

A residential curbside recycling program was incorporated in the City’s Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) that was required by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) an element stemming from AB 939. The SRRE was completed in 1992/1993 timeframe.

The city chose in 1996, a short time after the MRF started processing solid waste, to start the blue bag recycling program to meet the required element in the City's SRRE and promote recycling amongst the residents of Auburn. The City of Auburn under its current franchise agreement with Auburn Placer Disposal offers the residents of Auburn the blue bag program. The blue bag program is voluntary and is a simple means for residents to source separate their recyclables at home. The residents are currently encouraged to place all dry, clean recyclable materials in the blue bag. The City of Auburn residents pay for the blue bag program through their solid waste fees paid to Auburn Placer Disposal; as of July 1, 2008 residents paid approximately \$0.54 per month for the blue bag program.

The residents of Auburn use the blue bag program as evidenced by Auburn Placer Disposal's distribution of over 130,000 bags in calendar year 2008 and collected over 80,000 blue bags to be processed at the MRF. The residents appreciate the convenience of source separating their recyclables at home. The blue bags were chosen as the method of recycling because it enables the haulers to utilize the same truck and routes for pick-up. The blue bags maximizes recovery efforts at the MRF as the recyclables are clean and dry, but they do not guarantee that the materials will be recovered at the MRF. WPWMA currently does not operate a source separated line for processing recyclables.

The Grand Jury report recommends that the City of Auburn eliminate the blue bag program and notify residents that "... their time, effort and expense marginally increase, if at all, the amount of materials recycled. The notice should educate the public on the effectiveness of the recycling process and the collection of commingled materials at the MRF. The notification could be a direct mailing or inclusion in the billing."

Benefits of Blue Bags:

- Encourages Source Separating Recyclables from Solid Waste
- Educational Tool
- Easy & Convenient
- Recyclables arrive at MRF Clean and Dry
- Allows APDS to utilize existing trucks and routes
- Allows residents to pay for a 32 gallon can instead of a toter service (\$16.68/month vs. \$27.19/month)
- A program element of the City's SRRE

Cons of the Blue Bags:

- MRF does not recycle 100% of what residents put in the bags
- Cost to the resident of approximately \$0.54/month
- Weight of blue bags is incorporated with solid waste thus not counted as direct diversion credit for the City of Auburn
- The blue bags (not the contents) are not currently recycled at the MRF

The City spoke with Auburn Placer Disposal Services regarding their position on the blue bag program and they stated that they have a neutral position.

WPWMA's official response to the Grand Jury is attached.

Mayor Holmes is required to respond to the Grand Jury by September 1, 2009 regarding the Blue Bag recycling program.

Additional Information – AB 939 & SB 1016 Information

In 1989, AB 939 – The Integrated Waste Management Act was enacted. The Act required waste diversion mandates through source reduction, recycling, composting activities and diversion of 50% of all solid waste by January 2000. AB 939 is regulated by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB).

In 2008, SB 1016 was enacted and changed the measurement system and reporting as related to AB 939 and became effective January 1, 2009. SB 1016 requires a reporting change to a disposal-based indicator: the per capita disposal rate, which uses only two factors: a jurisdiction's population and its disposal as reported by disposal facilities. In order to shift to this new system, we need to have a measurement that translates AB 939's diversion goal into disposal-based language. This is the "50 percent equivalent per capita disposal target" -- the amount of disposal that is approximately equivalent to our jurisdiction's current 50 percent diversion requirement. The CIWMB has calculated this target for each jurisdiction. Under the new measurement system, to meet the 50 percent target, a jurisdiction needs to annually dispose of an amount equal to or less than its 50 percent equivalent per capita disposal target.

SB 1016 creates a clearer picture to CIWMB and jurisdictions as to where we stand in our waste reduction efforts. Compliance of AB 939 is evaluated by CIWMB staff and staff reviews the jurisdictions' per capita disposal rate as an indicator of how wells the jurisdictions' programs are doing to keep or reduce disposal at or below the jurisdictions' 50% equivalent disposal target. The number is one of several factors in determining compliance.

The City's diversion rates and disposal rates are as follows:

2000: 38% [Time Extension Approved by CIWMB]
 2001: 48% [Time Extension Approved by CIWMB]
 2002: 55%
 2003: 54%
 2004: 53%
 2005: 59%
 2006: 55%

SB 1016 (Effective Date January 1, 2009)

Reporting years 2007 & 2008 are pending compliance review (AB 939 & SB 1016) from CIWMB staff. Based on the disposal data alone, the City is currently in compliance. CIWMB Staff will review the disposal data along with the City's recycling program to determine compliance. The City's next Board review cycle will cover the program implementation from 2007 – 2011, and will be conducted in 2012.

2007: Reporting Year Calculations Results (Per Capita)

	<u>Population Data</u>		<u>Employment Data</u>	
	<u>Target</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Calculated Disposal Rate (pounds/person/day)	7.4	6.8	10.6	10.1

2008: Reporting Year Calculations Results (Per Capita)

	<u>Population Data</u>		<u>Employment Data</u>	
	<u>Target</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Calculated Disposal Rate (pounds/person/day)	7.4	5.7	10.6	8.4

Alternatives Available to Council; Implications of Alternatives

1. Direct Staff to discontinue the "Blue Bag" recycling program and send a response to the Placer County Grand Jury.

Fiscal Impact

The citizens of Auburn currently pay approximately \$0.54 per month as part of their Auburn Placer Disposal Service bill for free blue bags. If the blue bag program was not continued then the residents could see their solid waste monthly fee decrease by the blue bag fee. APDS sets the solid waste fees.

Attachments:

2007-08 City of Auburn Grand Jury Response

Grand Jury Report 2008-09 Section Blue Bag Recycling Program Assessment

WPWMA 2008-09 Grand Jury Response

Letter from Residents Eric & Peggy Egli regarding Blue Bags

City of Auburn

1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603 • (530)823-4211 • FAX (530)885-5508
www.auburn.ca.gov

September 9, 2008

The Honorable Larry Gaddis
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
101 Maple Street
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Placer County 2007-2008 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Honorable Judge Gaddis:

The City of Auburn would like to thank the Grand Jury for their review of Western Placer Waste Management Authority's (WPWMA) operations as it relates to the operation of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The MRF facilitates recycling in South Placer County and the cities and county benefit from the MRF's operations.

The City will comment on the Grand Jury's conclusion and recommendations. The City Manager, Robert Richardson, was a Respondent to the Grand Jury report and please consider this letter as having fulfilled his obligation to respond.

Recommendation: The Grand Jury recommends that jurisdictions serviced by the MRF eliminate their blue bag program.

The City of Auburn has offered its residents the option of the blue bag program since 1996. The residents of Auburn appreciate the convenient option to source separate recyclables at their home. The residents of Auburn in the 2007 calendar year turned in over 67,000 blue bags to be processed at the MRF. The residents are instructed to place all dry, clean recyclable materials in their blue bags and either place the blue bag in their garbage can or beside their can.

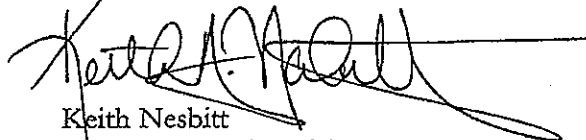
The City believes that the foundation of a successful education and environmental stewardship program is public involvement. The blue bag is a valuable educational tool that allows our citizens to participate in the recycling process at their home which naturally increases their awareness of waste issues. This awareness can foster waste reduction behavior patterns that can be applied at home, business and during recreational activities.

The City Council agreed that it was apparent that the Grand Jury only saw the initial recovery of the blue bag process and the entire process was probably not availed to them.

At the August 25, 2008 City Council meeting the City Council agreed to continue to offer the blue bag program to the residents of the City of Auburn.

The City of Auburn appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury.

Respectfully,



Keith Nesbitt
Mayor of the City of Auburn

BLUE BAG RECYCLING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

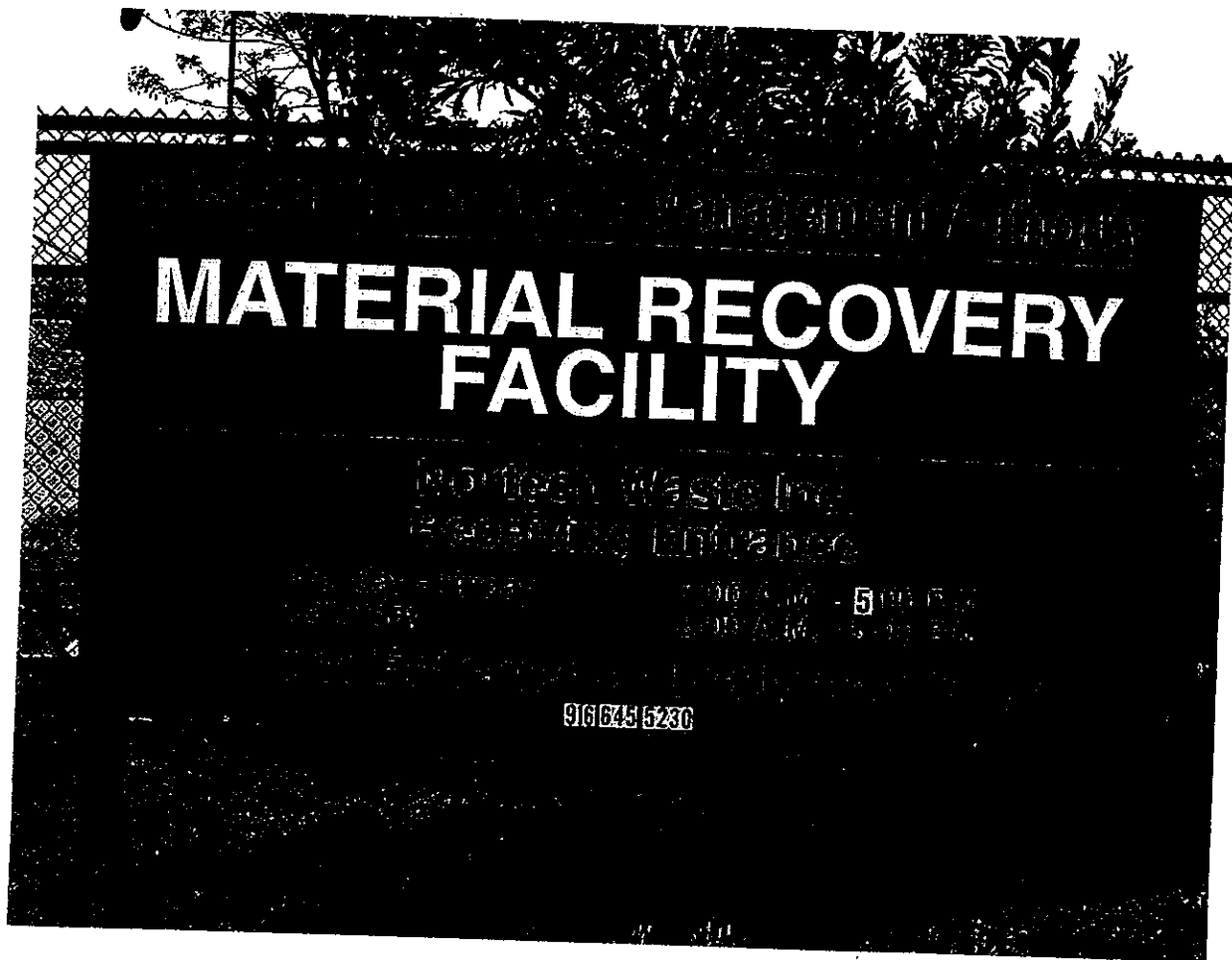


Photo by Win Gredvig

BLUE BAG RECYCLING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Summary

Four jurisdictions in Placer County utilize a voluntary Blue Bag Recycling Program. These are the cities of Auburn and Lincoln, the Town of Loomis, and unincorporated areas of Placer County. Residents and businesses place clean and dry recyclables in blue bags that are commingled with regular trash and transported to the Western Placer Waste Management Authority's Materials Recovery Facility for processing at a later date. The 2008–2009 Grand Jury agrees with last year's Jury in its recommendation that all Blue Bag Programs be eliminated. Because of the responses received from the cities of Lincoln and Auburn, this Grand Jury reinvestigated the program and determined the residents' time, effort and expense were of marginal value to any of the jurisdictions' recycling programs while additional costs were incurred in processing intact bags.

Background

The 2007–2008 Grand Jury, in response to questions from residents concerning the effectiveness of the Western Placer County recycling program, conducted an investigation of the Western Placer Waste Management Authority's (WPWMA) Materials Recovery Facility (MRF, pronounced "Murf") in January 2008. That Grand Jury found the MRF to be well managed and using state-of-the-industry equipment and technology. The recyclable materials commingled with the other trash and garbage were easily and efficiently sorted, collected and packaged for sale.

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) mandated that 25% of refuse be recoverable by 1995 and 50% by 2000. Soon after, some Placer County jurisdictions started Blue Bag Programs that allowed citizens to voluntarily place clean recyclable items in blue plastic bags that were commingled with trash container contents. The bags were pulled off the sorting lines at the MRF and saved for later processing.

The 2007–2008 Grand Jury found the Blue Bag Program contributing marginally, if at all, to the overall-recycling program. Because the MRF processes all commingled refuse so efficiently, that Grand Jury recommended the jurisdictions eliminate the Blue Bag Programs.

Opposition responses from the cities of Auburn and Lincoln caused the 2008–2009 Grand Jury to reopen the investigation into the viability of the Blue Bag Programs.

Investigation Methods

On October 17, 2008, Jurors met at the MRF, listened to a presentation by Eric Oddo, WPWMA Senior Civil Engineer, asked questions and completed a tour of the entire facility. It began on the receiving floor where the trucks dumped the loads, then proceeded up to the next level where the receivables were sorted and recyclables collected. The tour ended where the refuse materials had been collected and readied for the landfill and recyclables compressed and packaged for sale. Jurors returned to the MRF in December to specifically follow the blue bags' path from the receiving floor and along the sorting line conveyor belts.

Jim Durfee, Executive Director of WPWMA, and Jim Estep, Lincoln City Manager, were interviewed in January 2009. Mr. Estep was accompanied by staff members, John Pedri and Steve Ambrose. Jurors asked about Blue Bag Program costs and its contribution to the recyclable recovery efforts.

Facts

In their written responses to last year's Grand Jury report, the cities of Lincoln and Auburn disagreed with the 2007–2008 Grand Jury's recommendation to eliminate the Blue Bag Programs. Lincoln administrators stated the program elimination would require a substitution, such as a third can for recyclables, to meet its goals. Auburn's Mayor, Keith Nesbitt, stated, "The blue bag is a valuable educational tool that allows our citizens to participate in the recycling process at their home which naturally increases their awareness of waste issues." Jim Durfee indicated, in his written response, that the WPWMA would maintain a neutral position and process blue bags as long as jurisdictions elected to continue their programs.

In a January 2009 Grand Jury interview, Lincoln officials maintained the Blue Bag Program's elimination would require it to be replaced with an alternative program.

Although they said they had not determined the requirements of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), the officials again mentioned a third can program as a replacement or the possibility of using a facility other than the existing MRF.

Mr. Durfee testified to this Grand Jury that the benefits of the Blue Bag Programs are marginally positive and are cost neutral to Placer County. The participating jurisdictions and the public bear the costs. As he stated previously, the WPWMA maintains a neutral position and will process blue bags as long as programs exist.

The CIWMB recently approved the 2006 Diversion Rates and Lincoln achieved 60% by implementing 35 programs. In comparison, Rocklin achieved 58% implementing 31 programs and does not have a Blue Bag Program. There are 63 potential diversion programs listed by CIWMB. All jurisdictions in Placer County exceeded the State-mandated 50% Diversion Rate except the Town of Loomis. It received a board approved good faith effort of 48%.

Roseville and Rocklin, the two largest cities in Placer County, do not have Blue Bag or any other curbside sorting programs. Green waste is placed in a separate container.

The MRF in Placer County is classified as a "dirty MRF" waste processing facility and accepts refuse as a mixed solid stream. This type of treatment technology accepts waste and recyclable materials mixed together. All the garbage comes into the facility and a combination of mechanical methods, including shakers, screens, magnets, etc., is used to sort and collect materials. In addition, workers manually sort and collect recyclables from the trash as it moves along on the conveyor belt lines. Separation occurs within the plant rather than at the source or curbside. After all the recyclables are collected, the remaining waste material is transported to the landfill for disposal.

At the curbside or other collection point, a commingled refuse container is dumped into a collection truck, hauled to the MRF and the contents dumped onto the receiving floor. When blue bags reach the sorting lines, employees are instructed to retrieve the blue bags and drop them in a separate bin. At a later time, after sufficient numbers of bags have been accumulated, the filled bins are returned to the receiving floor and the bags are run through the same process as regular trash. The employees tear open the bags and shake the contents out onto the belts. The belt speed is reduced to a very slow pace so all recyclables can be retrieved.

The WPWMA's addition of the MRF in the 1990's and its updating with the latest equipment and technology available in mid 2000's has increased its recycling capability and efficiency. The present processing system is effective and nearly all recyclables commingled with regular trash can be retrieved.

Within Western Placer County there are four jurisdictions presently implementing voluntary Blue Bag Programs. The programs began in the early 1990's prior to the modernization of the MRF, when resident participation was needed to separate recyclables from other trash. All four jurisdictions require recyclable items placed in the bags to be clean and dry, including various paper products, plastic/glass bottles and aluminum/tin cans.

The MRF processes the refuse collected from all of Placer County west of the City of Colfax. The Town of Loomis, City of Auburn and unincorporated areas of Placer County utilize the Auburn Placer Disposal Service (APDS) to pick up and transport refuse. The City of Lincoln collects its own trash and delivers it to the MRF. The Town of Loomis and City of Auburn provide residents blue bags at no charge and APDS delivers them. Lincoln residents are provided free bags, costing the City \$26,000 per year. Blue bags must be picked up at City Hall. Unincorporated area residents of Western Placer County must purchase blue bags at grocery stores. The filled bags are expected to be placed inside the container. Otherwise, the APDS driver will exit the cab to retrieve blue bags placed alongside a full container. The City of Lincoln requires filled blue bags to be placed inside the garbage container.

Blue bags comprise only a very small percentage of the total volume of processed refuse at the MRF. A large portion of the blue bags do not make it to the sorting lines in a retrievable condition. They are often ripped open by the sheer weight of the contents, items in the bag, sharp objects, compaction in the truck, etc. The bags provided to the residents for no charge tend to be made of thinner plastic than the purchased types and are torn open very easily. The blue bags themselves are presently not recyclable and are sent to the landfill.

Jurors observed the blue bags in various conditions when they started the path from the receiving floor to the sorting lines. Employees may retrieve an intact or partially damaged blue bag containing recyclables at any point after it reaches a sorting line belt

and before it drops off the end of the line. In general, the bags can be categorized in the following ways:

- Bags are not retrievable and are treated as regular garbage:
 - Bags are badly damaged with no contents.
 - Bags are damaged and all contents fall out when grabbed by a sorter.
 - Bags are partially intact and all contents may be dislodged with a little shaking.
- Bags are retrievable and saved for sorting at a later date:
 - Bags are damaged but some or all the contents remain after it is grabbed.
 - Bags are not damaged at all.

Jurors had been told that all retrievable bags would be removed from the belts, saved and processed later. However, Jurors observed that some retrievable bags passed every worker on the line, dropped off the end of the belt and the unrecovered recyclables went to the landfill.

One benefit resulting from the programs served by APDS is that bags are allowed to be placed alongside a full trash container, making space available inside for additional trash.

Findings

1. The MRF, with its updated equipment and use of technology, is a very well managed and efficient recycling facility. Its recyclable recovery program is improved marginally, if at all, by the Blue Bag Programs.
2. Making residents aware of the value of recycling is beneficial. However, Jurors found no evidence the time, effort or money spent on the Blue Bag Programs by residents contributed anything significant toward achieving the recycling goals of the jurisdictions.
3. Since the MRF is classified as "dirty", any handling of separated recyclables, such as filled blue bags, adds to processing costs. Jurors found the blue bags added to the total cost of recycling programs in at least three ways.
 - a) The bags cost the residents money either directly by purchase or indirectly through town or city purchase.
 - b) Extra time and labor are required to retrieve bags placed alongside full containers.
 - c) Extra time and labor are required to process saved bag contents at a later time.

4. One negative aspect to eliminating the Blue Bag Program is that in some jurisdictions residents will lose the benefit of placing blue bags next to the full container. The extra space can save residents money by allowing more trash to be disposed of without paying for an additional container.

Recommendations

1. Due to the recyclable recovery efficiency at the MRF, all Blue Bag Programs within Western Placer County should be eliminated.
2. All Western Placer County jurisdictions with Blue Bag Programs should notify their residents that their time, effort and expense marginally increase, if at all, the amount of materials recycled. The notice should educate the public on the effectiveness of the recycling process and the collection of comingled materials at the MRF. The notification could be a direct mailing or inclusion in the billing.

Request for Responses

- Spencer Short, Mayor / #'s 1, 2 - Due by September 1, 2009
City of Lincoln
600 Sixth Street
Lincoln, CA 95648
- Mike Holmes, Mayor / #'s 1, 2 - Due by September 1, 2009
City of Auburn
1225 Lincoln Way
Auburn, CA 95603
- F. C. "Rocky" Rockholm, Chair / #'s 1, 2 - Due by September 1, 2009
Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603
- Walt Scherer, Mayor / #'s 1, 2 - Due by September 1, 2009
Town of Loomis
6140 Horseshoe Bar Road, Suite K
Loomis, CA 95650
- Jim Durfee, Executive Director / #'s 1, 2 - Due by October 1, 2009
WPWMA
11476 C Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

**MEMORANDUM
WESTERN PLACER WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

TO: WPWMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS DATE: AUGUST 13, 2009
FROM: JAMES DURFEE
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE 2008-2009 GRAND JURY REPORT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit the attached response to the Placer County Grand Jury's 2008-2009 Final Report.

BACKGROUND:

On June 24, 2009, the Placer County Grand Jury issued its 2008-2009 Final Report. The report included an assessment of the Blue Bag recycling program (attached) with recommendations to eliminate the program and to better inform residents in the WPWMA's service area of the success of the MRF and the limited effectiveness of the Blue Bag program. The Grand Jury requested a response to these recommendations from the Executive Director. A copy of the draft response to the Grand Jury's recommendations is attached for your Board's consideration.

ATTACHMENT: RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT
 EXCERPT FROM THE 2008-2009 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

JD/EO



WESTERN PLACER
WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

JOHN ALLARD, ROSEVILLE, CHAIRMAN
ROCKY ROCKHOLM, PLACER COUNTY
GEORGE MAGNUSON, ROCKLIN
SPENCER SHORT, LINCOLN
ROBERT WEYGANDT, PLACER COUNTY
JAMES DURFEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 13, 2009

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

RE: PLACER COUNTY 2008 - 2009 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

Dear Judge Pineschi:

The Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA) wishes to thank the members of the Grand Jury for their efforts associated with investigating the WPWMA's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and their favorable comments regarding its operation. The WPWMA is extremely proud of the cost-effective and environmentally responsible services it provides to the cities and county.

In accordance with the Grand Jury's request, following are the WPWMA's responses to the recommendations presented in the report entitled "Blue Bag Recycling Program Assessment":

Response to the Grand Jury's Recommendations

- 1. Due to the recyclable recovery efficiency at the MRF, all Blue Bag Programs within Western Placer County should be eliminated.**

It is the responsibility of each of the participating agencies to identify its recycling needs and to develop specific programs, such as the Blue Bag program, to address those needs. To the extent that these programs are consistent with the purpose and function of the MRF, the WPWMA will continue to support these programs and assist the participating agencies in meeting their waste management and diversion needs. As such, we will continue to handle and process blue bags for any of the participating agencies as long as those agencies elect to continue their involvement in the program.

- 2. All Western Placer County jurisdictions with Blue Bag Programs should notify their residents that their time, effort and expense marginally increase, if at all, the amount of materials recycled. The notice should educate the public on the**

RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL MADE EASY

11476 C AVENUE AUBURN, CA 95603
(916) 543-3960 / (916) 543-3990 FAX
WWW.WPWMA.COM

effectiveness of the recycling process and the collection of commingled materials at the MRF. The notification should be a direct mailing or inclusion in the billing.

Since the Blue Bag Program is not a WPWMA program, we have no response to this recommendation.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and respond to the report.

Respectfully,

James Durfee, Executive Director
Western Placer Waste Management Authority

cc: Placer County Grand Jury
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Roseville City Council
Rocklin City Council
Lincoln City Council
Auburn City Council
Loomis Town Council

Megan Siren

From: Eric and Peggy Egli [eegli@att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 9:45 AM
To: Megan Siren
Subject: blue bag program for recycling

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Ms. Siren,

I see there has been some debate about continuing the blue bag recycling program in Auburn, but I'm not sure where it stands. Please share this letter with city council if this issue comes up on a future agenda.

I write assuming that the proposal under consideration is that we no longer separate our trash from recyclables, and put everything (mixed) into the toter. I am against this. I favor continuing either the blue bag program or some other sorting. Here's why:

1. Under the current system, I can use the full volume of my toter exclusively for trash. Occasionally my garbage can gets totally filled because of some project at home, and I can legally put my blue bags outside the bin and it will all get picked up. The rest of the time, my toter is only 1/4 full of non-recyclables and I put the blue bags in the toter. I have the large-size toter service so I can get the big green waste toter too (That works way better than the dump pass alternative, since I haven't got a truck or a trailer.)

2. It can help keep bears out of toters. Because my neighborhood has bears that get into the trash, and I don't have a garage to keep my toter in, I separate out kitchen waste and my recyclable food containers from other trash. I put this "odorous" trash out only on the morning of pickup.

3. It teaches conservation of resources. It raises public consciousness about the waste we all create, makes us think a bit more about what we buy, packaging, and limited resources. It teaches kids about caring for the environment.

Sincerely,

Peggy Egli

313 Riverview Drive
Auburn, CA 95603
530-889-9048
eegli@att.net

